

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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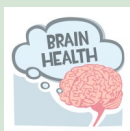
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October HAPPENINGS



Emotional Wellness Month
Bat Appreciation Month
Financial Planning Month

October 10th
World Mental Health Day



October 15th
Florida Stone Crab Season Opens!

October 12th –28th
Global Climate Change Week



October 21st
National Reptile Awareness Day!



October 31st
Happy Halloween!



Landscape Storm Recovery

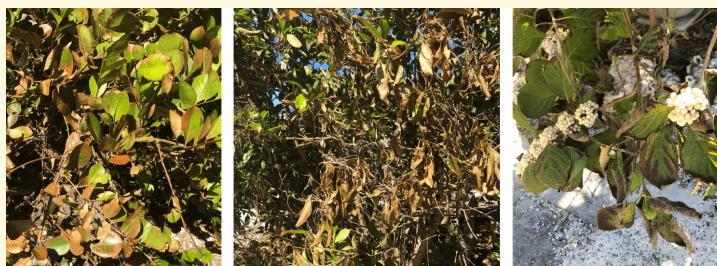
By Michelle Leonard-Mularz,
Environmental Horticulture Agent

Hurricane Ian made an impact as it passed west of the Keys. Though we were spared the worst, strong hurricane-force wind gusts and fast-moving storm surge caused significant damage in some areas. Yards and homes were flooded with saltwater and trees were broken apart or toppled. Now comes the decisions on how to mitigate this damage.

Saltwater Flooding

The best way to help plants survive, that have been flooded with saltwater, is to get fresh water to the roots (once saltwater subsides, and when it is safe to do so). Use the dripline of the canopy as a guide on how far out to drench with fresh water. Damage to plants might not be known initially and could take a couple weeks to see the effects. Do not rush to prune or remove these plants. Allow plants to flush out with new growth and use that as a guide for removing any dieback.

Likewise, plants in high-wind impacted areas might have leaf burn or the leaves were removed entirely by strong winds. Many of these plants will likely drop leaves and begin to push out new foliage. Again, patience is your friend. Do not rush to remove any of the leaves that are still green, even if areas of the leaf tissue may be brown or black. Removing any additional foliage will only add stress to the plant.



Leaf damage from high winds (left to right: cocoplum, fiddlewood, and American beautyberry). The damaged leaves will continue to brown and blacken, but the plants are likely to recover.

Tree Mitigation

Trees that have suffered damage in a storm can be uprighted and restored with corrective measures when:

- Small branches are dead or broken
- Leaning or fallen trees that are young or recently planted, usually under 4" in diameter
- Some major limb breakage in decay resistant species

Plant Clinics

Every Saturday

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Grimal Grove

258 Cunningham Lane
Big Pine Key

Wednesday, October 5th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Murray Nelson Govt.
Center

102050 O/S Hwy. #244
Key Largo

Plant Clinic

Canceled, will resume in the fall

Key West Garden Club
1100 Atlantic Blvd.
Key West

Saturday, October 15th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot
4555 O/S Hwy,
Marathon

Saturday, October 15th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery

5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Wednesday, October 19th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys
94040 O/S Hwy.
Tavernier

Thursday, October 27th

Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Island Home Nursery
88720 O/S Hwy,
Islamorada

Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly was the inaugural speaker for the UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist mentoring series to 24 attendees. This video was produced as a training video for Florida Master Naturalist instructors who plan to teach the sponge habitat restoration module within the Marine Habitat Restoration special topics course. Sponges are essential for healthy ecosystems because they continuously filter large volumes of water while feeding on phytoplankton, viruses, and bacteria.



- During the Reef Futures conference at Ocean Reef, Shelly presented during "Media Training: how to develop, pitch, and place your story in local and major media" about the importance of sponges as "invisible fences" that provide water quality benefits for coral reefs to 17 attendees. Unfortunately, the session Shelly was co-leading, "Coral Communication: Building a Community of Practice" was cancelled due to Hurricane Ian. We are planning a new virtual format for the 100+ registrants to create a coral conservation communication working group through the Coral Restoration Consortium.

- Shelly was invited to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute by Dr. Shirley Pomponi. Shelly was able to use their very high-tech microscopes to identify sponge gametes from sheepswool sponges. None of the loggerhead sponges showed signs of reproduction yet. This is one of the objectives of the EPA South Florida Geographic Initiative grant for sponge restoration aquaculture.
- Shelly was on Morning Magazine to talk about the NOAA proposal to list Queen Conch as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Queen Conch are already protected in the Florida Keys and all recreational harvest has been prohibited since 1986. The commercial fishery has been closed since 1975. NOAA Fisheries is looking for public comment on the Federal Register until November 7, 2022

link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/08/2022-19109/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-proposed-rule-to-list-the-queen-conch-as-threatened>

The Environmental Horticulture Program and Master Gardener Volunteers remain

CALL OUR OFFICE:
(305)292-4501

We have many different ways we can assist!

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov

Please include a detailed description of the problem and photos if available

VISIT OUR OFFICE:

Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
Call (305)292-4501 to schedule an appointment

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Visit our Facebook page for updates, requests, information and so much more!

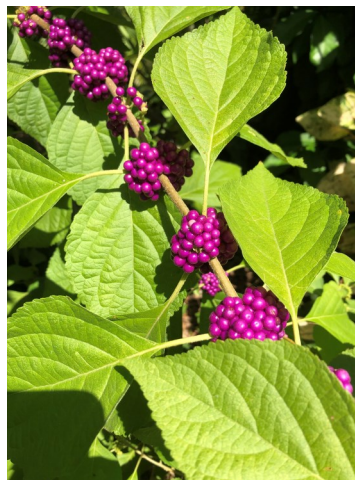
<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension>

Horticulture News



Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

- October is Florida Native Plant month. Florida Agricultural Commissioner, Nikki Fried, created the designation to highlight the significant role native plants have in conserving and protecting Florida's natural environment.



- Migratory Birds are making their through the Keys to go south for the winter, so this is an excellent time to add native plants to yards, gardens, and public spaces like American beautyberry (photo left).

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Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt

UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

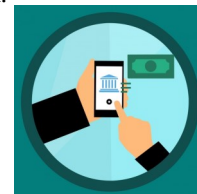
Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Alicia participated in training agents from UF and FAMU in the Community Voices, Informed Choices (CIVIC) program. She helped agents become proficient in facilitation and deliberative dialogue.



- Alicia spoke to two senior groups about sales tax holidays and budgeting. The dramatic rise in the cost of groceries, medication, and other living expenses has made our senior population very concerned about stretching their dollars.

- Alicia held two online classes to help parents and students fill out the FAFSA.



- Alicia spoke twice on the radio about hurricane safety and phone apps that can help residents store important documents, connect with neighbors and track tropical systems.



Continued from page 1

However, removal of canopy trees may be the best option under the following conditions:

- The lower trunk is cracked or broken
- A very large limb has split from the tree to expose additional structural issues
- Major roots are severed or broken on mature trees
- The tree is leaning towards a target like a home, building, or roadway, etc.
- The remaining tree has very poor structure that is highly susceptible to breakage
- Most of the canopy is broken with large diameter limbs that will be difficult to restore



A gumbo limbo (left) with a huge limb failure from Ian. The included bark and decay (center) likely contributed and this tree should be removed. The seagrape (right) suffered limb damage that can be remediated with proper pruning.

Safety comes first! Tree work can be very dangerous. So the general rule of thumb is anything you cannot handle from the ground, should be done by a professional. They have the right equipment like bucket trucks and climbing gear. Also, tree care professionals understand the nuances of working in the different types of trees. For instance, gumbo limbos are extremely slippery because of their peeling bark. It is very easy for someone to slip and fall and the danger is increased when carrying heavy pruning equipment, like chainsaws.

Proper Pruning

Trees do not heal from damage, including pruning. The best defense they have is to compartmentalize or "wall-off" the damage from potential invading pathogens and insects. Improper pruning can weaken the tree and cause it to decline further and ultimately contribute to death from secondary invading organisms.

- Always make good pruning cuts to encourage compartmentalization and strong branch attachment.
- Illegal practices such as hat-racking and stub cuts can contribute to weak branch attachment and cause the tree to become a hazard in future storms.
- Use the three-step pruning guideline when cutting large limbs

Fruit Trees

Fruit trees that have been uprooted may need sun protection until they can be stood back up because of sun exposure and overheating to areas of the tree that were previously shaded. Resetting trees larger than 15 feet will require heavy equipment and might not be recommended in a home landscape, especially if most of the roots were severed and it's in the small yard where there are nearby structures like a house or vehicle. If a tree has gone down in a previous storm and has been uprooted a second time, removal is the best option. Large fruit trees like avocado and mango should be planted 25 feet or more away from any structures. However, many landscapes in the keys are small, and so regular pruning to reduce the height of the tree and open up the canopy for better wind flow will greatly reduce the chance of them toppling in a storm. Mature avocado trees can be maintained at 10 to 15 feet and 6 to 15 feet for mangos.

Each landscape situation is unique and you may have more questions than answers. Contact your local County Extension Office for additional help. Here in Monroe County, you can call (305) 292-4501 or contact our Master Gardener Volunteers directly at mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov.

Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees After a Hurricane
<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/miami-dade/documents/disaster-preparation/hurricane-and-disaster/Assessing-Damage-and-Restoring-Trees-After-a-Hurricane-Gilman.pdf>

Preparation for and Recovery From Hurricanes for Tropical Fruit Trees in the South Florida Home Landscape
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS322>

Is My Tree Safe? Recognizing Conditions that Increase the Likelihood of Tree Failure
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP507>

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UF IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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This newsletter can be accessed online at:

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

We're on the Web at: <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



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<https://ics.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifas-diversity-and-legaleeo-statements/>



UF/IFAS Extension is
Putting Florida First



2022 PEANUT BUTTER CHALLENGE



Donate unopened jars of peanut butter to the locations listed below from now until Oct. 31st.



All peanut butter donations will go to our local food pantries to help feed families in need.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Key West Gato Building	Suite 2-260
Marathon Govt. Center	Suite 400
Murray Nelson Govt. Center	Suite 244
Harvey Government Center	Suite 207

Questions? Please call (305)292-4501

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	July	Aug	Sept	Totals
Phone calls	41	41	60	142
Office visitors	52	71	66	189
Email Consultations	92	122	131	345
Learning events	15	18	26	59
Participants	192	222	319	733
Media submissions	2	7	8	17
Publications distributed	108	234	284	626
TOTAL contacts	502	715	894	2,111

Florida Friendly Lunch and Learn: Lets Get Recognized
Friday, October 14th at 12pm. FREE Online

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program recognizes landscapes that use sustainable landscaping practices. Florida-Friendly landscapes minimize the use of potable water for irrigation, avoid the runoff of excess fertilizers and pesticides from the landscape, and provide habitats for wildlife.

Butterfly Basics & Garden Tours

Friday, October 28th 10am to 12pm FREE
LOCATION: Crane Point Hammock, 5551 O/S Hwy, Marathon

Learn how to create a butterfly garden in your own yard. There are some simple basic strategies that are necessary to welcome all stages of a butterfly and ensure gardening success. We will also tour the demonstration garden at the Red Nun sculpture..

For questions or to register for these events
please call (305)292-4501

October Events